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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,616	10/23/2003	Masanori Yoshida	1259-0239P	5917

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EXAMINER

SELBY, GEVELL V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/13/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,616

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, MASANORI

Examiner

Gevell Selby

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see the amendment, filed 5/22/07, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Stavely, US 7,098,949, and Yokota, US 5,905,530.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokota, US 5,905,530.**

In regard to claim 1, Yokota, US 5,905,530, discloses a digital camera comprising:

a zoom lens (see figure 1, element 100) having high optical distortion on a telephoto side as compared with on a wide-angle side (see column 12, lines 51-55);

an imaging device (see figure 1, element 101) for photoelectrically converting subject light passing through said zoom lens, to generate image data (see column 6, lines 49-60); and

a signal processing circuit (see figure 1, element 102) for subjecting said image data to a distortion correction process (see column 6, lines 49-60), said signal processing circuit correcting said optical distortion only on said telephoto side (see figure 19, column 12, lines 51 to column 14, line 12: when the controller determines the lens is on the telephoto side, optical distortion correction is performed on it).

In regard to claim 2, Yokota, US 5,905,530, discloses the digital camera as recited in claim 1, wherein it is inherent the signal processing circuit of the Yokota reference adopts a large distortion correction parameter as the magnifying power of said zoom lens becomes high, since increasing the magnifying increases the distortion, which requires a higher parameter to move the pixels to the correct positions.

4. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stavely, US 7,098,949.

In regard to claim 4, Stavely, US 7,098,949, discloses a digital camera comprising:

a zoom lens (see figure 1, element 130) having high optical distortion on a wide-angle side as compared with on a telephoto side (see column 2, lines 56-59);

an imaging device (see figure 1, element 115) for photoelectrically converting subject light passing through said zoom lens, to generate image data (see column 2, lines 54-57); and

a signal processing circuit (see figure 1, element 105) for subjecting said image data to a distortion correction process (see column 3, lines 1-4: the

controller executes the module correct barrel distortion 155), said signal processing circuit correcting said optical distortion only on said wide-angle side (see column 3, lines 32-52: the module correct barrel distortion module only corrects barrel distortion causes by a wide angle lens).

In regard to claim 5, Stavely, US 7,098,949, discloses the digital camera as recited in claim 4, wherein it is inherent the signal processing circuit of the Stavely reference adopts a larger distortion correction parameter as the magnifying power of said zoom lens becomes low, since decreasing the magnifying of a wide angle lens increases the distortion, which requires a higher parameter to move the pixels to the correct positions (see para. 139).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stavely, US 7,098,949, in view of Matama, US 2005/0111110.**

In regard to claim 3, Yokota, US 5,905,530, discloses the digital camera as recited in claim 1. The Yokota reference does not disclose wherein said signal processing circuit skips said distortion correction process when magnifying power of said zoom lens is lower than a predetermined value.

Matama, US 2005/0111110, discloses lens aberration correction processing wherein when the lens aberrations are large, the processing is performed and otherwise the processing is skipped (see para. 100).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Yokota, US 5,905,530, in view of Stavely, US 7,098,949, wherein said signal processing circuit skips said distortion correction process when magnifying power of said zoom lens is lower than a predetermined value, in order to save processing time and resources.

7. **Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stavely, US 7,098,949, in view of Matama, US 2005/0111110.**

In regard to claim 6, Stavely, US 7,098,949, discloses the digital camera as recited in claim 4. The Stavely reference does not disclose wherein said signal processing circuit skips said distortion correction process when magnifying power of said zoom lens is higher than a predetermined value.

Matama, US 2005/0111110, discloses lens aberration correction processing wherein when the lens aberrations are large, the processing is performed and otherwise the processing is skipped (see para. 100).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Stavely, US 7,098,949, in view of Matama, US 2005/0111110, wherein said signal processing circuit skips said distortion correction process when magnifying power of said zoom lens is higher than a predetermined value, in order to save processing time and resources.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 571-272-7369. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Gevell Selby, Art Unit 2622

gvs